

# Indoor Scale Nationals News

Keeping you informed with the planning and progress for the 2025 BMFA Scale Indoor Nationals



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## Notes from the Organising Team

By Paul Rich

As the weekend for the Indoor Nationals rapidly approaches the Organising Team are pleased to confirm that on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025 a Zoom Session will be taking place inviting competitors to join to ask questions regarding this year's event.

Taking place between 19:30 – 20:30 hours GMT the forum will be open for questions regarding the Scale Indoor Nationals.

There is no need to pre-register to [Join the Zoom Meeting](#)

Anyone wishing to participate can use the link above and the following joining instructions to take part: **Meeting ID: 864 2368 0207 and security code 527380.**

We look forward to seeing you on-line on the 21<sup>st</sup> April!

## Plan of the Month

Growing up in an Aeromodelling family in the 1980's allowed me the opportunity to delve into my Dad's Aeromodeller and Model Aircraft Magazine collection dating from the late 1950's to the present day.

As a youngster one copy of Aeromodeller always grabbed my attention due to its stunning cover photograph, displaying the model that could be built from the plans found in the centerspread of that issue.



Doug McHard's diminutive Gloster Gladiator, (at 12 inches wingspan), on a brilliant yellow background, looked all the world to me like a well-built plastic model. In 2025 I still get the same thrill and excitement from looking at that beautiful cover as I experienced as a 10 year old enthralled by spectacle of such an amazing well built and finished Flying Scale Model.

Despite never having the opportunity to meet Doug, he remains one of my Aeromodelling "heroes" and is a major inspiration for my interest in Scale Aeromodelling.

The plans for his Gladiator, (and a larger IC powered version), can be located on the excellent Outerzone website.

[https://outerzone.co.uk/plan\\_details.asp?ID=855](https://outerzone.co.uk/plan_details.asp?ID=855)

The link also contains the build article found in the July 1971 Aeromodeller.

# News from the flightline and more

By Paul Rich

## North West Gala

The 1<sup>st</sup> March saw the North West Gala take place in the impressive venue of the Manchester Velodrome.

At the invite of the BMFA North West Region the Scale Technical Committee were invited to attend to organise and run Scale Peanut, Pistachio and Open Flying only competitions during the day. Competitors in Peanut were also competing for the Modellers Den Peanut trophy, (see image below).



The Scale Open Flying only competition provided exceptionally popular with an impressive 16 models competing. Scale Open Flying Only allows Scale FF Models of all motive powers to be judged to the Scale Open flight judging rules and negates the need for static judging or documentation. For these reasons it would make for an ideal Scale FF club event.

First in each class were:

Flying Only – Dave Whitehouse – Stinson 125

Peanut – Mike Stuart – Chance-Vought Kingfisher

Pistachio – Tim Horne – Waco SRE

A huge thank you to Dave Whitehouse for organising and CD'ing the event and to Graham Kennedy for acting as a static and flight judge during the day.

## Shawbury Trimming Opportunities

Shropshire Indoor Modellers fly every month at the Sports Hall at RAF Shawbury, near Shrewsbury in Shropshire.

RAF Shawbury is the home of rotary wing training for all three branches of the UK armed forces.

Visitors are welcome, (BMFA insurance required). Slots are run for both RC and FF flying. Indoor scale models that need a clear hall for trimming can also be accommodated.

John Minchell, the Chairman of Shropshire Indoor Modellers, has organised two sessions in April which are ideal as opportunities to get that last minute trimming done before the Scale Indoor Nationals take place.

The two sessions in April are taking place on:

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, and;
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday)

The sessions take place between 11:00 -16:00hrs and the cost to fly is £10.00.

### Venue details:

Royal Air Force Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 4PF – The Sports Hangar is situated in Dawson's Rough which is around 200 yards, (on the right), from the main base entrance.

For further contact details please use the link below.

<https://northwest.bmfa.uk/shropshire-indoor-modellers-2024-25>



## Book of the month:



## Flying Scale Models of WWII (various)

This classic book, published in 1974 by Model Builder Magazine in 1974 contains 12 beautifully executed full-size plans for 1:24 scale WWII rubber-powered scale models, designed by such luminaries as Doug McHard, Bob Peck and Bill Hannan. Each plan is carefully detailed and photographed with step-by-step instructions on building, covering, and finishing, and recommendations on how to trim and fly. Included with every plan is a layout of sheet balsa formers, parts to transfer direct to stock size wood and cut out.

Copies tend to exchange hands for large sums of money, but an online PDF copy can be viewed at:

[https://outerzone.co.uk/books/list\\_chapters.asp?book=3](https://outerzone.co.uk/books/list_chapters.asp?book=3)



## Video of the Month

### DX Modelworks – RC SE5a Build Log

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgaDerUG910>

Pick up some hints and tips as you watch this build of a 13.5" Micro RC Scale Model from a vintage 1930's Aeromodels plan.



## Glider Scale Models

**BMFA Scale Indoor Nationals trial event 2025 – with thanks to Bernard Bruins for organising and running this new, fun event to take place over lunchtime at the Scale Indoor Free Flight Nationals on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

### 1. General characteristics:

Maximum wingspan.....80 cm / 31.5"  
Motive Power.....hand launch from balcony

### 2. Model characteristics:

**2.1** All models need to be based on a real airplane, proof of the real plane needs to be given via photos or written documentation. For early pioneer planes (like DaVinci style planes) a copy of a rendering or design sketch is also allowed.

**2.2** Only one model can be used for the event.

**2.3** Models may be of traditional balsa and tissue construction or constructed from foam. Carbon fibre is only allowed to strengthen the model at critical points. Carbon tubes for attaching winds etc, are also allowed. Full carbon (tube) spars, training edge, leading edge etc. are not allowed.

### 3. Number of flights

Two flights allowed per flight task. So four flights in total (time permitting).

### 4. Motive power

All launching will be done by hand from public gallery.

### 5. Flight tasks

For the BMFA trial event, two of the IIFI flight tasks have been selected. There will be a flight referee to check if the model used looks like a real airplane (markings, shape etc.). For each task there are two attempts per flyer.

#### A. Flight time and static judging

- On the public gallery there will be a starting area. Within that area the flyer has to launch his model. This will be done by hand. Using chairs is not allowed for safety.
- The flight time will be recorded by the referee. Models stay on the floor until everybody has flown.
- Two rounds will be flown.
- Each round will have points assigned - 1 for longest time up to "number of competitors" for the shortest time. Points are recorded on scoresheet.
- Static judging is done by referee, with an assistant if he can find one. The concept is that all the models are put on a table and ranked from 1 to ... (insert number of flyers). The criteria for the ranking is up to the judges. The best static gets one point, second two, etc.

#### B. Target landing

- On the public gallery there will be a starting area. Within that area the flyer has to launch his model. This will be done by hand. Using chairs is not allowed for safety.
- The model must fly and land as close as possible to a marked target.
- When the model lands it will stay where it sits until all the flyers had their attempt.
- Closest to the target gets one point, next closest 2 etc.
- Two rounds to be flown – each round scored separately.

### Final result

Totals are added together for both the duration rounds and both target rounds, plus the static score, so five scores in total. Lowest score wins.